

IN THE CLAIMS

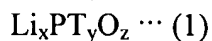
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A negative electrode for a battery, the negative electrode comprising:
a collector;

an active material layer provided on the collector, the active material layer including at least one kind of matter in a group consisting of an elementary substance of tin, an elementary substance of silicon, an alloy including at least one of tin and silicon, and a compound including at least one of tin and silicon; and

an inorganic compound layer provided on the active material layer, the inorganic compound layer having a chemical composition expressed by general formula (1) described below, and having lithium ion conductivity.



wherein component T is at least one kind of element selected from an element group consisting of element symbols Ti, Cu, Zr, Mo, Ta, and W, and additionally x, y, and z satisfy $2.0 \leq x \leq 7.0$, $0.01 \leq y \leq 1.0$, and $3.5 \leq z \leq 8.0$, respectively.

2. (Original) The negative electrode for a battery according to claim 1, wherein x, y, and z satisfy $2.0 \leq x \leq 3.0$, $0.01 \leq y \leq 0.50$, and $3.5 \leq z \leq 4.0$, respectively, in the general formula (1).

3. (Original) The negative electrode for a battery according to claim 1, wherein x, y, and z satisfy $2.0 \leq x \leq 3.0$, $0.01 \leq y \leq 1.0$, and $3.5 \leq z \leq 7.0$, respectively, in the general formula (1).

4. (Currently Amended) The negative electrode for a battery according to claim 1, wherein the active material layer includes lithium ~~after charging~~ in a charged state.

5. (Original) The negative electrode for a battery according to claim 1, wherein the active material layer includes metal and the metal is alloyed with the collector at a part of an interface with the collector.

6. (Original) A negative electrode for a battery, the negative electrode comprising:
a collector;

an active material layer provided on the collector, the active material layer including at least one kind of matter in a group consisting of an elementary substance of tin, an elementary substance of silicon, an alloy including at least one of tin and silicon, and a compound including at least one of tin and silicon; and

an inorganic compound layer provided on the active material layer, the inorganic compound layer having a chemical composition expressed by general formula (2) described below, and having lithium ion conductivity.



wherein component M is at least one kind of element selected from an element group consisting of element symbols Si, B, Ge, Al, C, Ga, and S, and additionally x, y, and z satisfy one of:

$0.6 \leq x \leq 1.0$, $1.05 \leq y \leq 1.99$, and $0.01 \leq z \leq 0.5$, respectively;

$1.6 \leq x \leq 2.0$, $2.05 \leq y \leq 2.99$, and $0.01 \leq z \leq 0.5$, respectively;

$1.6 \leq x \leq 2.0$, $3.05 \leq y \leq 3.99$, and $0.01 \leq z \leq 0.5$, respectively; and

$4.6 \leq x \leq 5.0$, $3.05 \leq y \leq 3.99$, and $0.01 \leq z \leq 0.5$, respectively.

7. (Currently Amended) The negative electrode for a battery according to claim 6, wherein the active material layer includes lithium ~~after charging~~ in a charged state.

8. (Original) The negative electrode for a battery according to claim 6, wherein the active material layer includes metal and the metal is alloyed with the collector at a part of an interface with the collector.

9. (Original) A battery comprising:

a negative electrode including:

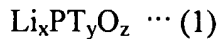
a collector;

an active material layer provided on the collector, the active material layer including at least one kind of matter in a group consisting of an elementary substance of tin, an elementary substance of silicon, an alloy including at least one of tin and silicon, and a compound including at least one of tin and silicon;

an inorganic compound layer provided on the active material layer, the inorganic compound layer having a chemical composition expressed by general formula (1) described below, and having lithium ion conductivity;

electrolyte conducting lithium ions; and

a positive electrode reversibly storing and releasing lithium ions.



wherein component T is at least one kind of element selected from an element group consisting of element symbols Ti, Cu, Zr, Mo, Ta, and W, and additionally x, y, and z satisfy $2.0 \leq x \leq 7.0$, $0.01 \leq y \leq 1.0$, and $3.5 \leq z \leq 8.0$, respectively.

10. (Original) A battery comprising:

a negative electrode including:

a collector;

an active material layer provided on the collector, the active material layer including at least one kind of matter in a group consisting of an elementary substance of tin, an elementary substance of silicon, an alloy including at least one of tin and silicon, and a compound including at least one of tin and silicon;

an inorganic compound layer provided on the active material layer, the inorganic compound layer having a chemical composition expressed by general formula (2) described below, and having lithium ion conductivity;

electrolyte conducting lithium ions; and

a positive electrode reversibly storing and releasing lithium ions.



wherein component M is at least one kind of element selected from an element group consisting of element symbols Si, B, Ge, Al, C, Ga, and S, and x, y, and z satisfy one of:

$0.6 \leq x \leq 1.0$, $1.05 \leq y \leq 1.99$, and $0.01 \leq z \leq 0.5$, respectively;

$1.6 \leq x \leq 2.0$, $2.05 \leq y \leq 2.99$, and $0.01 \leq z \leq 0.5$, respectively;

$1.6 \leq x \leq 2.0$, $3.05 \leq y \leq 3.99$, and $0.01 \leq z \leq 0.5$, respectively; and

$4.6 \leq x \leq 5.0$, $3.05 \leq y \leq 3.99$, and $0.01 \leq z \leq 0.5$, respectively.